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They lined up in the shadows of the inflatable Reshiram and Zekrom in San Diego, California: nearly 900 competitors hoping for their chance to get into the 2011 Pokémon TCG World Championships through the Last Chance Qualifier. They came from all over the world to battle. And in the end, only 48 of those players advanced to the Main Event, including a former World Champion and a former U.S. Nationals Champion.

When the battles for this year's titles were finally fought, the world was well represented. Two 11-year-olds, Gustavo Wada and Kohei Takenaka, represented Brazil and Japan in the Junior Division; Christopher Kan of Australia and Marco Facchin of Italy brought their respective countries to the table in the Senior Division finals; and David Cohen and Ross Cawthon,

both of the United States, battled in the Masters Division to decide which of them would be the World Champion.

The suspenseful battles saw two of the Finals matches tied up at one point, with the Masters Division battle going all the way to Sudden Death. With so many similar decks in motion during the tournament, every single decision made a difference in determining who would emerge as the Champions.

The new generation of Pokemon featured prominently at the event and in the winning decks, making this one of the most exciting World Championships ever. Key matches were fought in the spotlight onstage in the Sapphire Ball-room... The Finals battles were broadcast on overhead screens for all to see... A unique Nintendo Wi-Fi distribution of the Hoodium Pokemon Scrafty was in

seven different languages... Luminaries from the world of Pokémon signed autographs for fans... And everyone got a sneak peek at the next Pokémon TCG expansion Black & White-Emerging Powers. But most exciting of all, three flerce competitors achieved their dream: to become the next Pokémon TCG World Champion, the greatest players on earth.



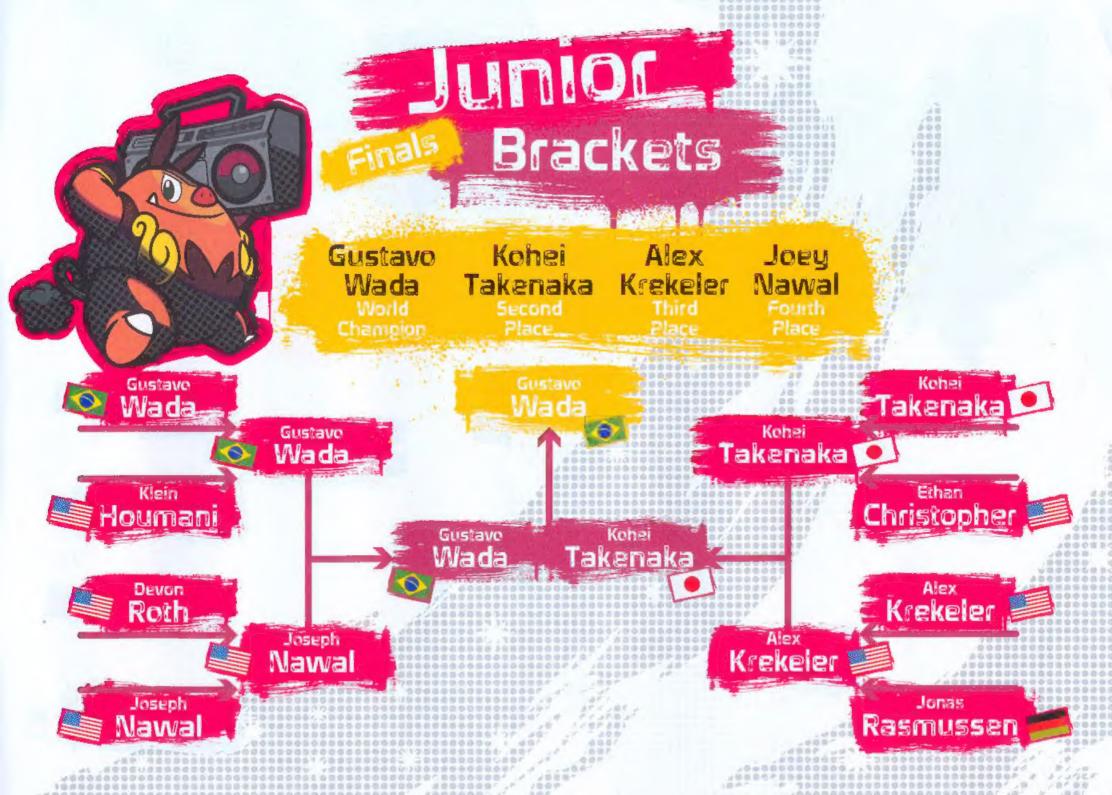
Participating Czech Republic Argentina Austria Hong Kong Italu Denmark Finland France Germanu Japan Malausia Malta Mexico Netherlands Portugal New Zealand Norway Singapore Spain United Kingdom United States

Emerging Champions

With each victory, the best Pokemon TCG players in the world got closer to the title that brought them to San Diego for the Main Event. Each victory showed what amazing competitors they were.

On Sunday, August 14th, the 24 best Pokémon TCG players, eight in each age division, faced off against one another in the Sapphire Ballroom before an expectant and appreciative crowd. As the day progressed, eight became four; then four became two. And two finally became one: a Pokémon TCG World Champion.

In each of the three Division brackets are the two sets of pairings (four players on the far left and four on the far right) that led to the Championship match (in the middle of each bracket). Below each bracket is the runner-up pairing for the third-place standing.



Senior Brackets

Christopher Kan Champion

Marco Facchin Second Place

Grafton Roll

Luke Burke Fourth Place

Kan *

Ryan Acgregor

Marco Facchin

Marco Facchin

Luke

Luke Burke

^{Brian} lathawau

Christopher Kan

Marco Christopher Facchic Kan

Jacob Lesage Christopher

> Christopher Kan

> > Kay Lüdecke

Gration Roll

Grafton Roll





Dolezal

Josh Wittenkeller

David Cohen

Dylan Lefavour

Cohen







Gustavo J Wada

Junior Division
World Champion

Age: 11

Country: Brazil

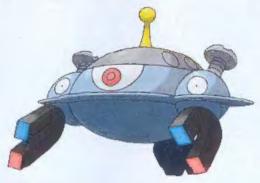
Deck: Megazone

Interesting Fact: Was particularly worried about facing Yanmega decks

Gustavo Wada hadn't been World Champion more than an hour when he was already thinking about next year's competition. "There's a card coming out that will change the current environment a lot," he says, referring to Pokemon Catcher, which he had just seen in the Prerelease tournaments. It's that sort of focus that took him all the way to the top. "This is an amazing tournament," he says. "In Brazil, we don't have such huge events. Everything—the environment, the decorations, the players. It's all amazing."

Megazone

Magnezone TM-96 x 3
Magneton TM-43 x 2
Magnemite TM-68 x 3
Yanmega TM-98 x 3
Yanma TM-84 x 4
Kingdra UL-85 x 2
Seadra UL-40 x 1
Horsea UL-49 x 2
Tyrogue HS-33 x 1
Cleffa CL-24 x 1
Pachirisu CL-18 x 1
Switch BLW-104 x 1



Copycat CL-77 x 2
Rare Candy UL-82 x 3
Pokémon Collector HS-97 x 4
Pokémon Communication BLW-99 x 4
Pokémon Reversal HS-99 x 4
Professor Oak's New Theory HS-101 x 3
Junk Arm TM-87 x 3
Judge UL-78 x 3
Lightning Energy x 10



Kohei Takenaka felt he was representing Japan when he battled his way through the Last Chance Qualifier for his chance to play in the World Championships. To that end, where he had previously emphasized playing quickly in his 1,000 games of practice—the basis for the name of his deck—he took his time when he finally made it into the Main Event: "I played very calmly," he says, "and I felt like I was going to beat everyone."

Kohei Takenaka O

Junior Division
Second Place

Age: n

Country: Japan

Deck: Reshiphlosion x 1000

Interesting Fact: Went from Last Chance Qualifier to the Finals!

Reshiphlosion x 1000

Reshiram BLW-26 x 4
Typhlosion HS-110 x 4
Quilava HS-49 x 2
Cyndaquil HS-61 x 4
Cleffa HS-17 x 1
Pokémon Collector HS-97 x 4
Professor Oak's New Theory CL-83 x 2
Sage's Training CL-85 x 4
Professor Juniper BLW-101 x 4
Rare Candy UL-82 x 4
Junk Arm TM-87 x 3
Pokémon Communication BLW-99 x 3



PlusPower BLW-96 x 3
Pokégear 3.0 HS-96 x 3
Pokémon Reversal HS-99 x 3
Fire Energy x 9
Rescue Energy TM-90 x 2
Double Colorless Energy HS-103 x 1





Junior Division Third Place

Age: 10

Country: United States

Deck: zoo

Interesting Fact: Could play the Pokémon TCG before he could read!

Alex Krekeler comes from a family of gamers—in fact, he learned to play Pokemon in his father's store, and has practiced over the years with his two older brothers, Zak and Andrew. They helped him build the deck that took him all the way to the Semi-Finals. "I was worried about the tournament," he admits. "I was afraid of Reshiram-Typhlosion decks." In the end, however, he achieved a success even better than third place: "I'll always remember doing better at Worlds than either of my older brothers ever did!"

Zoo

Phanpy HS-77 x 2

Yanmega TM-98 x 3

Yanma TM-84 x 3

Zoroark BLW-71 x 3

Zorua BLW-70 x 3

Reshiram BLW-26 x 1

Bouffalant BLW-91 x 4

Pokémon Collector HS-97 x 4

Professor Dak's

New Theory CL-83 x 4

Junk Arm TM-87 x 4



Pokémon Communication BLW-99 x 4
Pokémon Reversal HS-99 x 4
Judge UL-78 x 3
PlusPower BLW-96 x 3
Copycat CL-77 x 2
Professor Juniper BLW-101 x 2
Potion BLW-100 x 1
Switch BLW-104 x 1
Fighting Energy x 6
Double Colorless Energy HS-103 x 4



Although he was a little nervous to face the competition, Joey Nawal need not have been. His deck, fine-tuned by his dad, was ready for battle. On his way to the Semi-Finals at the World Championships, one turn stood out as his most memorable: lots of drawing power, Rare Candy after Rare Candy after Rare Candy, and Pokemon like Magnezone and Kingdra Prime and two Yanmega Prime all coming into play, creating the perfect storm. "Quite a lot for one turn," he says modestly.



Junior Division Fourth Place

Age: n

Country: United States

Deck: MegaJudge

Interesting Fact: His trip from Ohio to Worlds was his first plane ride!

MegaJudge

Yanmega TM-98 x 3

Magnezone TM-96 x 3

Magneton TM-43 x 2

Magnemite TM-68 x 3

Kingdra UL-85 x 2

Seadra UL-40 x 1

Horsea UL-49 x 2

Cleffa HS-17 x 1

Tyrogue HS-33 x 1

Copycat CL-77 x 4

Flower Shop Lady UD-74 x 1



Judge UL-78 x 4 Junk Arm TM-87 x 4

Pokémon Collector HS-97 x 3

Pokémon Communication BLW-99 x 3

Pokémon Reversal HS-99 x 3

Switch BLW-104 x 1

Rare Candy UL-82 x 3

Lightning Energy x 8

Grass Energy x 1

Rainbow Energy HS-104 x 2

Rescue Energy TM-90 x 2









Sanior Division World Champion

Age: 13

Country: Australia

Deck: Reshiphlosion

Interesting Fact: Went from 11th

seed all the way to Champion!

Christopher Kan was just as happy to test his winning deck against other decks of his own construction as he was to find other people to play against on his road to Worlds. His greatest worry along the way was what might happen if he encountered more-skilled players who were using the same deck he was—a distinct possibility. "So," he says, "I tried to psych my opponents into thinking my cards were bad and then wrecking them with a surprise." It was a strategy that served him well. His Reshiram-Typhlosion deck might have seen a lot of play at this year's Worlds, but no one played it as capably as World Champion Christopher Kan did.

Reshiphlosion

Reshiram BLW-26 x 4

Typhlosion HS-110 x 4

Quilava CL-49 x 1

Cyndaquil HS-61 x 4

Pokémon Collector HS-97 x 4

Professor Juniper BLW-101 x 4

Sage's Training UD-77 x 4

Engineer's Adjustments UL-75 x 2

Professor Oak's New Theory HS-101 x 2

Pokégear 3.0 HS-96 x 3

Rare Candy UL-82 x 4

Junk Arm TM-87 x 4

PtusPower BLW-96 x 3

Pokémon Communication
BLW-99 x 2
Revive BLW-102 x 1
Professor Elm's Training Method
HS-100 x 1
Energy Retrieval BLW-92 x 1
Fire Energy x 10
Rescue Energy TM-90 x 2



In one of his matches late in the tournament, Marco Facchin intended to use the attack Sonicboom on his Yanmega Prime, but the first syllable out of his mouth was "Lin...," as in "Linear Attack." He caught himself, but the judge ruled that he had declared a different attack than the one he'd wanted to use, forcing him to change his strategy on the spot. "I love to have fun," Marco concedes, "but sometimes tournaments are serious business!"



Senior Division Second Place

Age: 13

Country: Italy

Deck: Megazone

Interesting Fact: Flipped three tails on three coins for Jirachi in the Finals!

Megazone

Magnezone TM-96 x 3
Magneton TM-43 x 1
Magnemite TM-68 x 4
Yanmega TM-98 x 3
Yanma TM-84 x 4
Kingdra UL-85 x 2
Horsea UL-49 x 2
Cleffa CL-24 x 1
Manaphy UL-3 x 1
Jirachi UL-1 x 1
Pachirisu CL-18 x 1
Pokémon Collector HS-97 x 4
Judge UL-78 x 4



Junk Arm TM-87 x 4
Pokémon Reversal HS-99 x 3
Copycat CL-77 x 1
Pokémon Communication BLW-99 x 4
Switch BLW-104 x 1
Rare Candy UL-82 x 4
Twins TM-89 x 1
Lightning Energy x 7
Psychic Energy x 2
Rescue Energy TM-90 x 2





Senior Division
Third Place

Age: 15

Country: United States

Deck: MegaJudge

Interesting Fact: Was worried about playing Ann-Marie Thompson, 2010's Third Place Senior!

For eight months, Grafton Roll worked on his deck with the help of his father, Jim, and his brother, Carson. As he continued to develop the deck, it began to appear more and more widely in the field. No matter—he knew he had a strong, strategic deck. "But I was worried about Reshiram decks," he says. "Once we used it at City Championships, though, we just made very minor adjustments." That focus paid off in memorable competitive plays like Knocking Out two Cyndaguil in one turn!

MegaJudge

Magnezone TM-96 x 3
Magneton TM-43 x 2
Magnemite TM 68 x 8
Yanmega TM-98 x 3
Yanma TM-84 x 4
Kingdra UL-85 x 2
Seadra UL-40 x 1
Horsea UL-49 x 2
Cleffa CL-24 x 1
Pachirisu CL-18 x 1
Pokémon Collector HS-97 x 4
Judge UL-78 x 4



Copycat CL-77 x 2

Pokémon Communication BLW-99 x 4

Rare Candy UL-82 x 4

Pokémon Reversal HS-99 x 3

Seeker TM-88 x 1

Switch BLW-104 x 2

Lightning Energy x 7

Rainbow Energy HS-104 x 2

Rescue Energy TM-90 x 3



Luke Burke's goal for this year's World Championships, his fourth, was very straightforward: "I just wanted to make the top cut, as this is my last year in the Senior Division." He did just that with exciting wins (as when he used Sage's Training to get a Pokemon Reversal, flipped heads, and switched out his opponent's Active Pokemon for a vulnerable Benched one to take his last Prize card) and with superior sportsmanship. "I always try to laugh with opponents," he says, "regardless of our language barriers."



Senior Division Fourth Place

Age: 14

Country: United Kingdom

Deck: Reshiphlosionstar

Interesting Fact: Often plays
Pokémon TCG in other countries

Reshiphlosionstar

Reshiram BLW-26 x 4
Typhlosion HS-110 x 4
Quilava HS-49 x 2
Cyndaquil HS-61 x 4
Cleffa HS-17 x 1
Professor Juniper BLW-101 x 4
Pokémon Collector HS-97 x 4
Pokégear 3.0 HS-96 x 3
Pokémon Communication BLW-99 x 4
Rare Candy UL-82 x 4
Pokémon Reversal HS-99 x 3
Junk Arm TM-87 x 3
Sage's Training CL-85 x 4



Revive BLW-102 x 2 Lost Remover CL-80 x 1 PlusPower BLW-96 x 2 Fire Energy x 11







San Diego has been good to David Cohen, Back in 2009, he placed second in the Senior Division at the World Championships in San Diego. Now, in the same city, but two years and one age division later, he is the best Pokemon TCG player in the world. Yet he admits. "I did not have high hopes for myself." Many others did, however, especially the friends who cheered him on and who offered him deck-building advice as he tested his deck in the weeks before Worlds, "But everyone here is very good," he says. "Always have respect and beware new opponents at this level."

Masters Division World Champion

Age: 16

Country: United States

Deck: Twinboar

Interesting Fact: Used Rayquaza & Deoxys LEGEND for impressive wins

multiple times!

Twinboar

Emboar BIW-20x2 Pignite BLW-18 x 1 Tepig BLW-15 x 3 Reshiram RIW-26 v.a. Magnezone TM-96 x 3 Magneton TM-43 x 1 Magnemite TM-68 x 3 Rayquaza & Deoxys LEGEND UD-89 x 1 Rayquaza & Deoxys LEGEND UD-90 x 1 Cleffa HS-17 x 2 Rare Candy UL-82 x 4

Pokémon Communication RIW-99 x 4 Energy Retrieval BLW-92 x a Switch BIW-104 x a Junk Arm TM-87 x 3 Pokémon Collector HS-97 v 4 Twins TM-89 x 3 Professor Nak's New Theory CL-83 x 3 Fisherman HS-92 x 1 Fire Energy x 9 Lightning Energy x 4 Rescue Energy TM-90 x 2





Cawthon

Masters Divisi<mark>on</mark> Second Place

Age: 22

Country: United States

DECK: The Truth

Interesting Fact: Given his unusual deck, he expected to go all the way...or only 2—5!

Until Ross Cawthon played it, Reuniclus was virtually unknown at the World Championships. "Many, many people were confused by what my deck did," he says of his unique deck that featured Vileplume and, added only three days before Worlds, the Multiplying Pokemon Reuniclus. "It made my opponents think very hard about what to do against me," he notes. Ross himself knew just what to do, however. In various games, he used the Supporter card Twins to set up those two key Pokemon, "which was when I usually knew I could win." One day after his birthday, Ross's deck and play style earned him this year's appearance in the spotlight after his 2005 second-place finish in the Masters Division.

The Truth

Vileplume UD-24 x 2
Gloom UD-27 x 2
Oddish UD-60 x 3
Reuniclus BLW-57 x 2
Duosion BLW-56 x 2
Solosis BLW-55 x 3
Donphan HS-107 x 2
Phanpy HS-77 x 2
Blissey HS-106 x 1
Chansey HS-58 x 1

Pichu HS-28 x 2

Chansey HS-106 x 1

Chansey HS-58 x 1

Zekrom BLW-47 x 2

Suicune & Entei LEGEND UL-94 x 1

Suicune & Entei LEGEND UL-95 x 1

Cleffa Ct-24 x 1
Pokémon Collector HS-97 x 3
Twins TM-89 x 4
Sage's Training Ct-85 x 4
Professor Dak's New Theory Ct-83 x 1
Copycat Ct-77 x 1
Pokémon Communication BLW-99 x 3
Rare Candy Ut-82 x 3
Seeker TM-88 x 2
Tropical Beach PR-BW28 x 1
Fire Energy x 1
Fighting Energy x 2
Rainbow Energy HS-104 x 4
Double Colorless Energy HS-103 x 4



Using the deck that he played at U.S. Nationals (with some fine-tuning), Tom Dolezal came on strong with a very aggressive strategy right from the beginning. It paid off—his draws were strong, the coin flips in his favor. And in one noteworthy game, he used two Junk Arms to retrieve PlusPowers from his discard pile, sending him into the top 8 and ultimately earning him an invite to Worlds 2012 in Hawaii. "I was never worried," he says of his matches, "just a little nervous."

Tom a Dolezal

Masters Division Third Place

Age: 23

Country: United States

Deck: Bolt Burner

Interesting Fact: Has played the Pokemon TCG since it was first released in the U.S.

Bolt Burner

Typhlosion HS-110 x 4

Quilava HS-49 x 2

Cyndaquil HS-61 x 4

Reshiram BLW-26 x 3

Ninetales HS-7 x 2

Vulpix UL-68 x 2

Cleffa CL-24 x 1

Rare Candy UL-82 x 3

Sage's Training CL-85 x 1

Pokémon Communication BLW-99 x 4

Pokémon Reversal HS-99 x 3

PlusPower BLW-96 x 3

Junk Arm TM-87 x 4



Professor Juniper BLW-101 x 4
Twins TM-89 x 1
Pokémon Collector HS-97 x 4
Energy Retrieval BLW-92 x 1
Revive BLW-102 x 1
Fire Energy x 13



Palomine

Masters Division Fourth Place

Age: 28

Country: Mexico

Deck: Reshi-Clamp

Interesting Fact: Nearly everyone in his family—including his three-yearold nephews—plays Pokémon!

It all began with a theme deck back in 2004, and now Josué Palomino is one of the best Pokémon TCG players on the planet. "I just tried to make a strong deck," he says, "with something to help me with the mirror matches. When my opponents see Fire. they're still in for a surprise." Perhaps more surprising: Josué is. in fact, a doctor. "My parents make fun of me because I'm 28 and still playing Pokémon," he says with a smile. "But now, even they are interested in the game!"

Reshi-Clamp

Typhlosion HS-110 x 3 Ouilava HS-49 x 1 Cyndaguil HS-61 x 3 Reshiram BLW-26 x 4 Ninetales HS-7 x a Vulpix UL-68 x a Samurett BIW-32 x 1

Oshawntt PR-BW08 x 1

Engineer's Adjustments UL-75 x 1 Professor Juniper BLW-101 x 2

Professor Oak's New Theory CL-83 x 4

Pokémon Collector HS-97 x 4

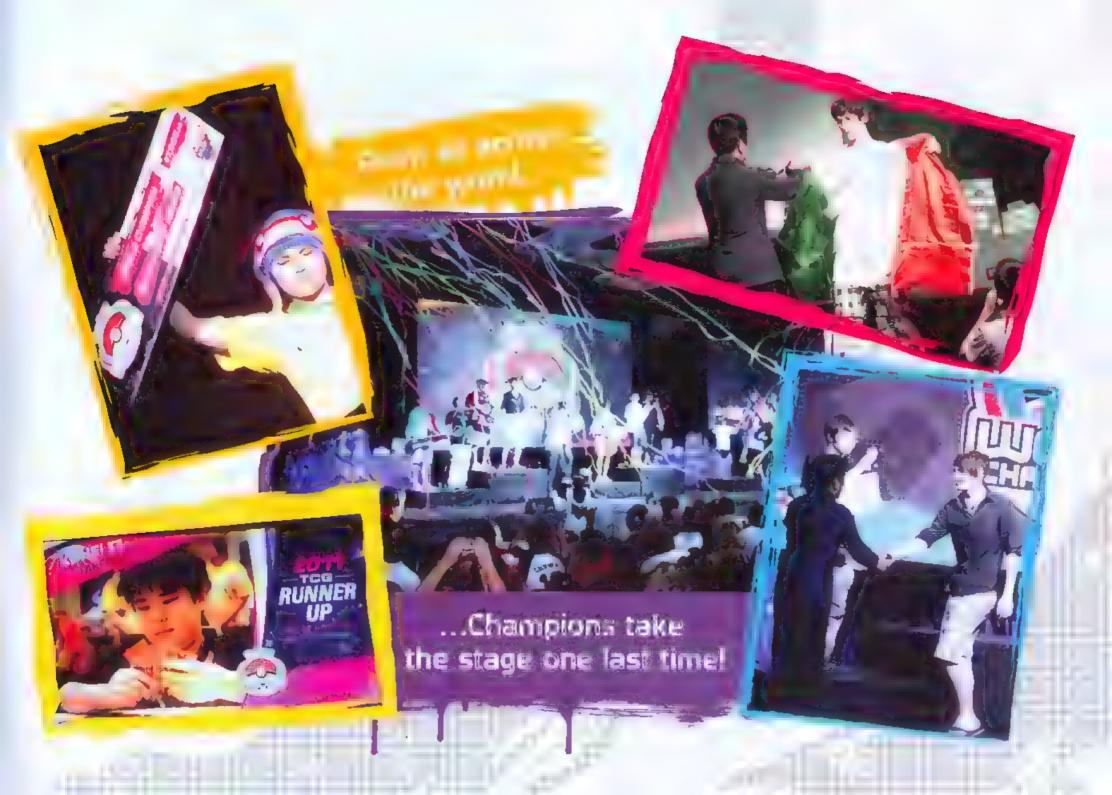
Rare Candy UL-82 x 4

Pokémon Communication BLW-99 x 4



PlusPower RIW-96 x 3 Pokémon Reversal HS-99 x 3 Junk Arm TM-87 x 3 Revive RLW-102 x 1 Energy Retrieval BLW-92 x 1 Fire Energy x 12 Rescue Energy TM-90 x 1





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